UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/731
16 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 45

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Letter dated 15 December 1997 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

I am writing to inform you of progress in the implementation of the peace accords in El Salvador during the period from 1 July to 10 December 1997, in accordance with the request by the General Assembly contained in resolution 51/199 B of 31 July 1997 that I keep it informed of further developments in the implementation of the peace process in El Salvador, as I deem appropriate.

You will recall that, in the assessment of the peace process I submitted to the General Assembly on 1 July 1997 (A/51/917), I proposed that, in view of the fact that there remained a number of accords, particularly in the socio-economic area, in which implementation had yet to be completed, two international Professionals and two local consultants should be inserted as a unit under the administrative umbrella of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This unit was to follow up on the outstanding elements of the peace accords for a period of six months, and would be funded by existing monies within the Trust Fund for the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador. This proposal was welcomed by the General Assembly in the above-mentioned resolution.

While the verification and good offices functions of the Organization have continued to be carried out from Headquarters, the unit in El Salvador has made every effort to assist the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) with the implementation of the outstanding elements of the peace accords in the socio-economic area. This has not been an easy task. The accords in which aspects remained outstanding, in particular the land transfer programme (PTT), the programme to transfer rural

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human settlements to their current occupants, the Fund for the Protection of the Wounded and War-Disabled, and the transfer of lands in excess of the constitutional limits of 245 hectares, are inherently complex, and the elements still in need of implementation are especially difficult. Moreover, it has not always been possible to attain the cooperation necessary from the agencies responsible for the implementation of the accords to ensure that solutions are found in the most expeditious manner possible.

Still, modest advances continue to be made. Although progress in the land transfer programme has been painstaking, a solution has been found for a third of the 900 beneficiaries whose cases were outstanding on 1 July 1997. All efforts should be made to ensure that similar solutions are found for the remaining 611 beneficiaries.

Of greater concern is the rural human settlements programme, in which substantial advances have been made only in negotiations with the properties' owners. Implementation of the other stages of the programme has been unjustifiably slow. In order to achieve the maximum progress in the months ahead, agreement should be reached between the Lands Bank and the National Registry Centre to establish mechanisms to facilitate the inscription of titles and purchase of properties. A high level of implementation of the programme during 1998 would then be possible.

The possibility of extending the benefits of the Fund for the Protection of the Wounded and War-Disabled to the total universe of potential beneficiaries included in the 1993 census as family members of dead combatants remains obstructed by the shortcomings of legislative decree 1040, as I pointed out in my report of 1 July 1997 (A/51/917). It is hoped that the appropriate adjustments can be made promptly in order to afford this needy population the benefits to which they are rightfully entitled.

There has been some reluctance on the part of the Salvadorian Institute for Agrarian Transformation (ISTA) to accept the findings of the United Nations-sponsored investigation into properties alleged by campesino organizations to have lands in excess of the constitutional limit of 245 hectares, in accordance with the agreement reached by the Joint Group working on the issue in December 1996. While the United Nations will honour the commitment it made to investigate the 42 remaining properties of those assigned to it by this agreement, it is to be hoped that the political will required to address the delicate issue of the transfer of the properties identified as being in excess of 245 hectares will be forthcoming.

Considering that aspects of the peace accords remain pending and that further modest progress in the areas in which the unit in El Salvador has been concentrating its work is still possible, I am proposing to maintain the presence of the unit [in El Salvador] for a further six months, but in the reduced form of one international staff member and one local consultant. The verification and good offices functions of the Organization will, as in the current period, continue to be carried out from Headquarters. Increased coordination with UNDP will be imperative to the success with which such a minimal presence is able to carry out the tasks assigned to it, as well as prepare for its eventual departure. Thanks to the generosity of voluntary

contributions made by the Netherlands and Spain in recent months, the costs of the unit would be covered by existing monies within the Trust Fund for the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador.

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/732
16 December 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 113

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 27th, 29th, 30th and 41st meetings, on 11, 14 and 17 November and 15 December 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item and the replies to queries raised are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.27, 29, 30 and 41).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Financial report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1996 and report of the Board of Auditors (A/52/5/Add.4);

(b) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 1996 and report of the Board of Auditors (A/52/5/Add.5);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors (A/52/381);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the concise summary of principal findings, conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Board of Auditors (A/52/261);

(e) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/518).

4. At the 41st meeting, on 15 December, the representative of Latvia introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors" (A/C.5/52/L.12), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.12 without a vote (see para. 6).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

Having considered, for the year ended 31 December 1996, the financial report and audited financial statements and the report of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,[1] the audited financial statements and the report of the Board of Auditors on the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,[2] the report on measures taken or to be taken by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors,[3] the concise summary of principal findings, conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Board[4] and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5]

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[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 5D (A/52/5/Add.4).

[2] Ibid., Supplement No. 5E (A/52/5/Add.5).

[3] A/52/381.

[4] A/52/261, annex.

[5] A/52/518.

Taking into account the views expressed by delegations and the Board of Auditors during the debate in the Fifth Committee on the financial reports and audited financial statements and the reports of the Board of Auditors on the aforementioned organizations,[6]

Taking note of the measures taken by the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to implement the current recommendations of the Board of Auditors,

Commending the Board of Auditors for carrying out its reviews in a comprehensive and efficient manner,

Recognizing the difficult conditions under which the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees does its work,

Noting the observation of the Board of Auditors, in paragraphs 25 to 30 of its report,[1] that the administrative expenditures of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research from the General Fund have been increasing even as its total income has been decreasing over the last several years,

Expressing concern that the headquarters of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees selected for submission of quotations vendors from a very narrow geographical base,

1. Accepts the financial reports and audited financial statements and the audit opinions and reports of the Board of Auditors on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

2. Also accepts the concise summary of principal findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Board of Auditors[4] and the comments thereon contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5] except for the request in paragraph 17 of the report;

3. Requests the Board of Auditors to further improve its reports by including short executive summaries, highlighted text boxes and a more concise narrative;

4. Also requests the Board of Auditors to monitor compliance with the relevant provisions on consultants of General Assembly resolution 51/226 of 3 April 1997;

5. Welcomes the introduction of a new section, pursuant to section A, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 51/225 of 3 April 1997, in the reports of the Board of Auditors highlighting the previous recommendations which had not been fully implemented;

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[6] See summary records of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/52/SR.27, 29 and 30).

6. Requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to complete the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors;

7. Endorses the request of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[7] to the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to consult with the Board of Auditors on the implication of submitting biennial reports instead of annual reports, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

8. Reiterates its request that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees comply fully with the United Nations System Accounting Standards;

9. Expresses concern at the observations made by the Board of Auditors, in paragraphs 79 to 98 of its report, regarding the use of consultants, and endorses its recommendations thereon;[8]

10. Recommends, in accordance with the relevant recommendations in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees should take immediate steps to improve its contracting policy, to prepare more precise terms of reference and to establish and maintain an updated central roster;[9]

11. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to fully observe and implement the established procedure for procurement, including procurement of goods and services from as wide a geographical basis as possible, and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 51/231 of 13 June 1997.

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[7] A/52/518, para. 3.

[8] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 5E (A/52/5/Add.5), sect. I.

[9] A/52/518, para. 12.

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/733
S/1997/984
16 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 82
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 12 December 1997 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text of a letter dated 12 December 1997 from the President of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Dr. Radoje Kontic, addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 82, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 12 December 1997 from the President of the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing in connection with the question of Prevlaka, which, at its core, is a territorial dispute between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia. It is known that the dispute is the subject of bilateral negotiations, regulated by the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, including resolution 1119 (1997), and article 4 of the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia.

Despite the efforts made on the part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, no significant progress in the direction of reaching a solution to this territorial dispute has been made thus far. The basic impediment to the quest for a solution is the lack of readiness on the Croatian side to solve the dispute through negotiations, as well as its attempts to prejudge the solution by resorting to unilateral acts and violations of the demilitarized zone.

The Yugoslav side has informed the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the situation several times, while appropriate data have been forwarded to the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) in the field. Unfortunately, despite the clear requests by the Security Council in its resolution 1119 (1997) and the obligations from the Agreement on Normalization of Relations between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Croatia, the Croatian side continues to violate the regime on Prevlaka.

The Croatian military continues to be deployed in "blue" and "yellow" zones, in which a few hundred military troops, as well as police officers, are actively engaged. Occasional military exercises in the immediate vicinity of the demilitarized zone, as well as incursions into the zone by military and police vehicles and vessels, are not only serious violations, but also create a climate of insecurity which does not facilitate the strengthening of confidence-building measures and the quest for a peaceful solution. The statements of the highest-ranking Croatian officials, as well as the activities of local authorities, promoting various projects aimed at affirming the policy of fait accompli by way of building a tourist resort on Prevlaka, are made with the same goal in mind.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has shown consistent respect for the demilitarized area on Prevlaka and for the provisions of the Security Council resolutions relevant to that issue. Accordingly, it has rendered full support to, and has cooperated with UNMOP. The Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has accepted the invitation of the Security Council in resolution 1119 (1997) and has adopted almost all the practical options proposed by the United Nations military observers related to their security and freedom of movement, as well as to security in the area of Prevlaka as a whole.

Bearing that in mind, as well as the situation in the field, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia considers that, in order to preserve security and strengthen the atmosphere of confidence, it is necessary that the decisions of the Security Council be fully complied with. We expect the Security Council to extend the mandate of UNMOP after 15 January 1998 and to keep the United Nations military observers in place until a mutually acceptable solution to the territorial dispute on Prevlaka has been found through bilateral negotiations.

(Signed) Dr. Radoje KONTIC

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/734
16 December 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 119

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Pattern of conferences" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 15th, 16th, 18th, 20th and 42nd meetings, on 28, 29 and 31 October, 4 November and 16 December 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.15, 18, 20 and 42).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Conferences (A/52/32 and Add.1 and 2);[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the results of the review of entitlements carried out by subsidiary bodies that have not fully utilized their meeting entitlements, including the duration of their sessions; review of the problems and factors involved in bodies whose utilization factor was below the benchmark figure for at least three sessions (A/52/215 and Add.1);

[1] To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/52/32/Rev.1).

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on subsidiary bodies authorized to meet away from their established headquarters in accordance with section I, paragraph 4, of General Assembly resolution 40/243 (A/52/216 and Add.1);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on control and limitation of documentation: implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/206 C (A/52/291);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates" (A/51/946);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "United Nations publications: enhancing cost-effectiveness in implementing legislative mandates" (A/52/685);

(g) Letters dated 11 September and 6 October 1997 from the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/52/340 and Add.1).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.13

4. At the 42nd meeting, on 16 December 1997, the representative of Singapore introduced a draft resolution entitled "Pattern of conferences" (A/C.5/52/L.13), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.13 without a vote (see para. 7).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements in explanation of position were made by the representatives of Austria, Saudi Arabia, the Russian Federation, Uganda, Indonesia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Morocco, Mexico, Belgium, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, Costa Rica, Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Cuba and Kuwait.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The General Assembly,

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Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences,[2]

[2] A/52/32 and Add.1-3.

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, 47/202 A of 22 December 1992, 48/222 A of 23 December 1993, 49/221 A of 23 December 1994, 50/206 A of 23 December 1995 and 51/211 A of 18 December 1996,

Taking note with concern of the difficulties experienced by some Member States owing to the lack of conference services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States,

1. Notes with appreciation the work of the Committee on Conferences, and takes note of its report;[2]

2. Approves the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 1998-1999 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences,[3] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. Authorizes the Committee on Conferences to make adjustments in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all the conference services required as a result of decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, taking into account, as necessary, the procedures established in Assembly resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987;

5. Decides that henceforth the two holidays of Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha shall be observed as official holidays of the United Nations at Headquarters, and at other duty stations where applicable, and that United Nations buildings at those locations shall be closed to the public on those days;

6. Decides also that no United Nations meetings shall be held on Id al-Fitr and Id al-Adha, which occur in 1998 on 29 January and 7 April, respectively, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure strict implementation of this decision and of paragraph 5 above when preparing all future draft calendars of conferences and meetings of the United Nations;

7. Expresses concern that 32 per cent of requests were denied for interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, in view of the importance of those meetings for the smooth functioning of sessional bodies, while recognizing that meetings of Charter and mandated bodies must be serviced as a priority;

8. Urges intergovernmental bodies to spare no effort at the planning stage to take into account meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, to make provision for such meetings in their programmes of work and to notify conference services well in advance of any cancellations so that

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[3] A/52/32, annexes I-V.

unutilized conference-servicing resources may, to the extent possible, be reassigned to meetings of regional and other major groupings of States;

9. Decides to include all necessary resources in the budget for the biennium 1998-1999 to provide interpretation services for meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States upon request by those groupings, on an ad hoc basis, in accordance with established practice, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Committee on Conferences, a report on the implementation of this decision;

10. Emphasizes the importance of providing adequate conference-servicing resources to all United Nations conference centres;

11. Welcomes the improvement, relative to 1995, in the overall utilization factor for 1996, which exceeded the benchmark of 80 per cent, in particular at Geneva and Vienna;

12. Notes with concern the underutilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

13. Calls for better utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi;

14. Encourages all the subsidiary bodies of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, the Commission on Human Settlements and other United Nations bodies to hold their meetings at the United Nations Office at Nairobi to the extent possible;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to assist the aforementioned bodies in improving this situation and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Committee on Conferences, on the actions taken to this end;

16. Reiterates its request to the Committee on Conferences, in consultation with the organs concerned, to examine the cases where the utilization factor is lower than 80 per cent for at least three sessions, with a view to making appropriate recommendations in order to achieve the optimum utilization of conference-servicing resources;

17. Reaffirms its decision that the headquarters rule shall be adhered to by all bodies;

18. Decides that waivers to the headquarters rule shall be granted solely on the basis of the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations, which the Committee on Conferences recommended for adoption by the General Assembly;

19. Invites all its subsidiary bodies that are authorized to meet away from their established headquarters to keep under review the exception to the headquarters rule in the light of the current situation of their work and to report any changes to the General Assembly through the Committee on Conferences;

B

Recalling its resolutions 47/202 B of 22 December 1992, 48/222 B of 23 December 1993, 49/221 B of 23 December 1994, 50/206 B and C of 23 December 1995 and 51/211 B of 18 December 1996,

Regretting the delayed issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations publications,[4]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. Also takes note of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on United Nations publications,[6] the positive opinion of the Committee on Conferences thereon, as well as the report of the Secretary-General thereon,[4] and decides to consider both reports at its resumed session;

3. Expresses deep concern about the decline in the quality of some reports and documents originating in the Secretariat;

4. Notes the decision of the Secretary-General that documents originating in the Secretariat should be no longer than 16 pages;

5. Emphasizes that this reduction should not adversely affect either the quality of presentation or the content of the documents;

6. Stresses once again the need for strict compliance with the existing page limits for reports of subsidiary bodies;

7. Invites all intergovernmental bodies to consider, where appropriate, the possibility of reducing the length of their reports from the desired limit of 32 pages to 20 pages over a period of time without adversely affecting either the quality of presentation or the content of the reports;

8. Decides to keep under review the length and quality of all documents;

9. Reiterates its request to United Nations bodies and to the Secretary-General to ensure respect for equal treatment of the six official languages of the United Nations;

10. Expresses deep concern about difficulties experienced by some Member States owing to the suspension of some publications in all official languages and the delay in the translation of official documents;

11. Decides, in this regard, to request the Secretary-General to provide all necessary resources to reverse this situation;

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[4] A/52/685.

[5] A/52/291.

[6] A/51/946.

12. Requests the Secretary-General to take steps to improve the quality and accuracy of meeting records in all six official languages through full reliance on sound recordings and written texts of statements as they were delivered in the original languages in the preparation and translation of those records, and to issue those records within a reasonable time-frame;

13. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the summary records of the Fifth Committee, given the technical complexity of their subject matter, are prepared by experienced language staff who are thoroughly familiar with current administrative and financial developments in the Organization, and are issued within a reasonable time-frame;

14. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue to improve and accelerate the accurate translation of documents into the official languages, giving special significance to the quality of translation;

15. Stresses the need to strengthen the monitoring of contractual translations to ensure that they meet the quality requirements for United Nations documents;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that summary records are translated in all six official languages concomitantly;

17. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, where appropriate, to introduce new technologies such as machine-assisted translation and common terminology databases;

18. Expresses deep concern that the limits to self-revision have not been kept at a level that would ensure a high quality of translation;

19. Requests the Secretary-General to reinstate the post of reviser in the six official languages;

20. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that documentation is available in accordance with the six-week rule for the distribution of documents simultaneously in the six official languages of the General Assembly;

21. Regrets that there continue to be delays in the submission of documents to conference services;

22. Reaffirms its decision that, if a report is issued late, the reasons for the delay should be indicated when the report is introduced;

23. Requests the Committee on Conferences to review the late issuance of documents and to suggest remedial action for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to direct all departments to include, where appropriate, the following elements in reports originating in the Secretariat:

(a) A summary of the report;

(b) Consolidated conclusions, recommendations and other proposed actions;

(c) Relevant background information;

25. Decides that all documents submitted to legislative bodies for consideration and action should have conclusions and recommendations in bold print;

26. Expresses deep concern about the technical and audio quality of some conference rooms, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to present proposals at the first part of the resumed fifty-second session of the General Assembly in order to ensure all necessary resources for the upgrading of those conference rooms, including the interpretation booths;

C

Recalling its resolutions 50/206 D of 23 December 1995, 51/211 C of 18 December 1996 and 51/211 F of 15 September 1997,

Stressing the importance of equal access to, and benefit from, the optical disk system and other new technologies in all six official languages by all Member States and the need to overcome the difficulties faced by some Member States, in particular developing countries, in acquiring the technology to access the optical disk system, as well as other available technologies,

Appreciating the actions taken by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics of the Economic and Social Council to achieve universal connectivity between the United Nations databases and those of Member States, including through their permanent missions, and the training programmes initiated to that end,

Also appreciating the efforts of the Secretary-General to incorporate new information technologies in the work of the Organization,

1. Recognizes the efforts to provide wider access to the optical disk system, while continuing to ensure the availability of hard copies for Member States, in particular for developing countries;

2. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to ensure that the texts of all new public documents, in all six official languages, and information materials of the United Nations are made available through the United Nations Web site daily and are accessible to Member States without delay;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to issue public information material in all official languages on the United Nations Web site as soon as possible, and to report on the implementation of this decision to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session through the Committee on Information;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to complete the task of uploading all important older United Nations documents on the United Nations Web site in

all six official languages on a priority basis, so that these archives are also available to Member States through that medium;

5. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue work on providing access to the optical disk system in the six official languages on an equal basis;

D

Recalling its resolutions 50/206 D of 23 December 1995 and 51/211 C of 18 December 1996,

Stressing the need to provide Member States and United Nations bodies with more comprehensive and accurate information on the costs of meetings and documentation,

Noting the possible benefits of the cost-accounting system for the financial efficiency of the United Nations,

1. Requests the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to expedite the development of the cost-accounting system for conference services in 1998 and to extend it to other areas of the Secretariat, ensuring that the system reflects the experience of other duty stations;

2. Encourages the Secretary-General, to the extent possible, to utilize in-house resources to implement the cost-accounting system;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly by 31 July 1998, through the Committee on Conferences and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, on measures taken to develop further the cost-accounting system;

E

Recalling its decision 38/401 of 23 September 1983 concerning the prohibition of smoking in small conference rooms and the discouragement of smoking in large conference rooms,

1. Calls on representatives of Member States to abide by decision 38/401;

2. Encourages all users of United Nations conference facilities, in order to avoid involuntary exposure to passive smoking, to refrain from smoking, in particular, in conference rooms.

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/735
16 December 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 121

UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "United Nations common system" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 30th, 32nd, 33rd, 35th and 42nd meetings, on 17, 21 and 26 November and 2 and 16 December 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.30, 32, 33, 35 and 42).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the International Civil Service Commission for the year 1997;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the system of performance awards or bonuses (A/52/439);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting comments by the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations (A/C.5/52/18);

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[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/52/30).

Taking note of the statement of the Administrative Committee on Coordination,[3]

I

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF STAFF IN THE PROFESSIONAL AND HIGHER CATEGORIES

A. Examination of the Noblemaire principle and its application

Recalling section I.B of its resolution 44/198 of 21 December 1989 and section I.A of its resolution 51/216 of 18 December 1996, by which it reaffirmed that the Noblemaire principle should continue to serve as the basis of comparison between the United Nations emoluments and those of the highest-paying national civil service,

Recalling also its resolutions related to the study by the International Civil Service Commission of all aspects of the Noblemaire principle,[4]

1. Reconfirms the continued application of the Noblemaire principle;

2. Reaffirms the need to continue to ensure the competitiveness of the conditions of service of the United Nations common system;

3. Takes note with appreciation of the study by the International Civil Service Commission to identify the highest-paying national civil service;[5]

4. Takes note of the findings and recommendations of the Commission outlined in paragraph 47 of the addendum to its twenty-first annual report;[6]

5. Notes that it has not been possible to narrow existing differences on the scope of the study or the applicability of the Master Standard without substantially modifying the approved methodology;

6. Takes note of the findings of the Commission outlined in paragraph 54 (c) of its twenty-third annual report;[7]

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[3] A/C.5/52/28, annex.

[4] Resolution 46/191 A, sects. IV and VI; resolution 47/216, sect. II.C; resolution 48/224, sect. II.A and B; and resolution 49/223, sect. III.A.

[5] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/50/30), paras. 122-172, and addendum (A/50/30/Add.1).

[6] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 30, addendum (A/50/30/Add.1).

[7] Ibid., Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/52/30).

7. Recognizes that the actual process of changing comparators is a complex one, including implications for pensions, the currency of record and the location of the base of the United Nations remuneration system;

8. Acknowledges its option of margin management;

9. Takes note of the observation of the Commission in paragraph 47 (c) of the addendum to its twenty-first annual report,[6] and the views expressed thereon by Member States;

10. Requests the Commission to continue to monitor the situation and to report to the General Assembly when appropriate, and decides to keep these questions under review;

B. Evolution of the margin

Recalling the standing mandate from the General Assembly, in which the International Civil Service Commission is requested to continue its review of the relationship between the net remuneration of the United Nations staff in the Professional and higher categories in New York and that of the United States federal civil service employees in comparable positions in Washington, D.C. (referred to as "the margin"),

Notes that the margin between net remuneration of officials in the Professional and higher categories of the United Nations in New York and that of officials in comparable positions in the United States federal civil service for 1997 is 115.7;

C. Base/floor salary scale

Recalling section I.H of its resolution 44/198, by which it established a floor net salary level for staff in the Professional and higher categories by reference to the corresponding base net salary levels of officials in comparable positions serving at the base city of the comparator civil service (the federal civil service of the United States of America),

Approves, with effect from 1 March 1998, the revised base scale of gross and net salaries for staff in the Professional and higher categories contained in annex I to the present resolution and the consequential amendment to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations, as reflected in annex II to the present resolution;

D. Post adjustment at Geneva

Recalling section I.B of its resolution 50/208 of 23 December 1995 related to the establishment in 1996 of a single post adjustment index in respect of staff members whose duty station is Geneva,

Recalling also section I.E of its resolution 51/216, in which it reiterated its request to the International Civil Service Commission urgently to complete its study regarding the methodology for establishing a single post adjustment index for Geneva, and to complete the study needed to implement the single post adjustment at the earliest date, and no later than 1 January 1998,

1. Welcomes with appreciation the extensive information provided by the International Civil Service Commission and the organizations of the common system, as contained in the report of the Commission;[5]

2. Notes that a number of elements have been raised that had not previously been reported upon, or discussed by the General Assembly;

3. Requests the Commission to review those elements, inter alia, the possibility for staff members of the United Nations common system (a) to reside in France, (b) to travel to France and (c) to transport goods between France and Switzerland and the way in which transitional measures would be introduced under any option proposed by the Commission and approved by the General Assembly to make the application of the post adjustment system more equitable for all staff members whose duty station is Geneva, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-third session;

4. Invites the executive heads to bring this matter[6] to the attention of their governing bodies with a view to considering changes as necessary to their staff regulations and rules;

II

REMUNERATION OF THE GENERAL SERVICE AND OTHER LOCALLY RECRUITED CATEGORIES OF STAFF

A. Methodologies for surveys of best prevailing conditions of employment at headquarters and non-headquarters duty stations

Recalling section III of its resolution 47/216 of 23 December 1992, in which it endorsed the reaffirmation by the International Civil Service Commission of the Flemming principle as the basis for determining the conditions of service of the General Service and related categories,

Recalling also section II of its resolution 51/216, in which it requested the Commission, as part of its review of the methodologies for salary setting for staff in the General Service and other locally recruited categories, inter alia:

(a) To resolve, to the extent possible, inconsistencies between that methodology and the one which is applied pursuant to the Noblemaire principle, inter alia, by examining the question of overlap in remuneration between the two categories;

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[5] Ibid., paras. 63-102 and annexes VII-XIV.

(b) To study the feasibility of increasing the weight of public-sector employers in the salary surveys at headquarters duty stations;

(c) To submit a report based on the review of the methodologies to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session,

1. Reaffirms that the Flemming principle should continue to serve as the basis for determining the conditions of service of the General Service and related categories;

2. Endorses the conclusions of the International Civil Service Commission, and the refinements and modifications to the methodology set out in paragraphs 126 to 131 of its report,[7] noting that the revisions to the methodologies will be implemented as from 1 January 1998;

3. Notes that at the conclusion of the next round of headquarters General Service salary surveys, the Commission will continue to review all aspects of the methodology for salary setting for staff in the General Service and other locally recruited categories;

B. Non-pensionable component

Noting that the review of the non-pensionable component was carried out by the Working Group established by the International Civil Service Commission with the participation of the representatives of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and that the Standing Committee of the Pension Board concurred with the Commission's decisions regarding changes to the procedures used for determining it,

Endorses the modifications decided on by the International Civil Service Commission regarding the various aspects of the non-pensionable component and transitional measures as outlined in paragraph 139 of its report;[7]

C. Review of the basis for the dependent children's allowance

Noting that the floor amount for the children's allowance for the staff in the General Service and related categories is currently based on 3 per cent of the mid-point of the local salary scale,

Taking note of the views expressed by Member States,

1. Endorses the conclusions and decisions of the International Civil Service Commission as contained in paragraph 150 of its report;[7]

2. Welcomes the Commission's intention to review this question further in its 1999 work programme;

III

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE APPLICABLE TO ALL CATEGORIES OF STAFF

A. Education grant: review of the methodology for determining the level of the grant

Recalling section IV of its resolution 47/216 and section IV of its resolution 51/216, in which it endorsed the revised methodology for the determination of the education grant,

Acknowledging that the methodology for determining the level of the education grant introduced in 1992 has functioned reasonably well,

Noting the review of the methodology by the International Civil Service Commission based on the experience of its application during the past three reviews of the level of the grant,

1. Endorses the modifications to the methodology by the International Civil Service Commission, as contained in paragraph 163 of its report,[7] and notes that the revised methodology will be taken into account beginning with the 1998 biennial review of the education grant;

2. Decides to delegate to the Chairman of the Commission the authority requested in paragraph 164 of the report of the Commission;[7]

B. Performance management

Recalling section I.C of its resolution 51/216 and its request to the International Civil Service Commission to provide general comments on the concept of performance awards and bonuses to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session,

Recognizing the differing organizational strategies and cultures prevailing in the United Nations common system, and considering that a flexible approach to performance management would be desirable,

1. Welcomes the comprehensive information on performance management provided by the International Civil Service Commission in paragraphs 167 to 219 of its report,[7] and in particular the guidance and recommendations contained in paragraphs 213 and 219;

2. Decides to consider the report of the Secretary-General on a system of performance awards and bonuses[9] under the item entitled "Human resources management";

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[9] A/52/439.

3. Invites the executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations common system to develop their performance management programmes within the parameters set by the Commission in paragraphs 213 and 219 of its report;[7]

C. Appointments of limited duration

Recalling section V of its resolution 51/216, in which it requested the International Civil Service Commission to continue its work on the issue of appointments of limited duration without delay,

Endorses the principles and guidelines for the use of appointments of limited duration, and the decisions of the International Civil Service Commission as contained in paragraph 249 of its report;[7]

D. Standards of travel and per diem

Recalling its decision 51/465 of 3 April 1997, in which it requested the International Civil Service Commission to review, at the earliest opportunity, taking into account the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[10] and the Joint Inspection Unit,[11] the question of travel entitlements of staff of the United Nations common system,

Having considered paragraphs 250 to 276 of the report of the Commission,[7]

1. Takes note of the observations of the International Civil Service Commission as contained in paragraph 275 (a) of its report;[7]

2. Invites the Commission to continue its consideration of this question;

E. Mission subsistence allowance

Recalling section IV of its resolution 51/218 E of 17 June 1997, in which it requested the International Civil Service Commission to develop a proposal to provide a post allowance and separate maintenance allowance for those personnel who leave their families at their home duty station while they are on mission assignment,

Notes the intention of the International Civil Service Commission to address this matter in 1998, and requests it to submit a report on the question to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

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[10] Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/47/7 and Add.1-17), document A/47/7/Add.5, and A/49/952.

[11] A/50/692.

F. Staff participation in the work of the Commission

Recalling its resolution 51/216,

1. Recalls its request to the Coordinating Committee for International Staff Unions and Associations of the United Nations System and the Federation of International Civil Servants' Associations to resume their participation in the work of the International Civil Service Commission in a spirit of cooperation and non-confrontation;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the progress made in this regard through the establishment by the Commission of a Working Group on the Consultative Process and Working Arrangements, comprising members of the Commission and representatives of the organizations and staff bodies, which will meet in January 1998;

G. New directions in human resources management

Recalling section IX of its resolution 51/216, in which it requested the International Civil Service Commission to take the lead in analysing new approaches in the human resources management field so as to develop standards, methods and arrangements that will respond to the specific needs of the organizations of the United Nations common system, and to report to the General Assembly thereon at its fifty-third session,

1. Welcomes the initiative taken by the International Civil Service Commission to hold a forum on new directions in human resources management in 1997;

2. Also welcomes the intention of the Commission to submit in 1998 a comprehensive report on new approaches to human resources management;

H. Gender balance in the common system

Recalling section VI of its resolution 47/216, in which it urged the United Nations common system to introduce a coherent plan for improving the status of women in each organization,

1. Takes note of the intention of the International Civil Service Commission to submit a report on the representation of women in 1998 which will include ways of improving the situation;

2. Also takes note of the intention of the Commission to continue to report on a regular basis both on the extent of implementation of previous recommendations in this area and on new initiatives proposed or introduced by the organizations to enhance the status of women in the common system.

ANNEX I

Salary scale for the Professional and higher categories showing annual gross salaries and net equivalents after application of staff assessment*

(United States dollars)

(Effective 1 March 1998)

Level		STEPS I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV
USG	Gross	147 420														
	Net D	102 130														
	Net S	91 883														
ASG	Gross	133 994														
	Net D	93 671														
	Net S	84 821														
Director																
D-2	Gross	109 741	112 164	114 591	117 016	119 442	121 869									
	Net D	78 390	79 919	81 447	82 975	84 504	86 032									
	Net S	72 056	73 338	74 615	75 890	77 167	78 443									
Principal Officer																
D-1	Gross	97 119	99 168	101 216	103 261	105 310	107 358	109 407	111 476	113 552						
	Net D	70 324	71 633	72 942	74 249	75 558	76 867	78 176	79 485	80 793						
	Net S	65 012	66 156	67 299	68 440	69 583	70 726	71 869	72 976	74 068						
Senior Officer																
P-5	Gross	85 685	87 516	89 347	91 192	93 046	94 898	96 751	98 605	100 457	102 310	104 164	106 016	107 869		
	Net D	62 983	64 168	65 352	66 537	67 721	68 905	70 089	71 274	72 457	73 641	74 826	76 009	77 194		
	Net S	58 486	59 570	60 653	61 705	62 740	63 773	64 807	65 842	66 875	67 909	68 944	69 977	71 011		
First Officer																
P-4	Gross	70 619	72 382	74 141	75 913	77 700	79 483	81 269	83 054	84 839	86 623	88 406	90 197	92 003	93 811	95 619
	Net D	53 196	54 353	55 507	56 660	57 817	58 971	60 126	61 281	62 436	63 590	64 744	65 901	67 055	68 210	69 365
	Net S	49 523	50 584	51 643	52 700	53 758	54 814	55 871	56 928	57 985	59 041	60 096	61 150	62 158	63 166	64 175
Second Officer																
P-3	Gross	57 720	59 351	60 984	62 613	64 246	65 889	67 542	69 197	70 851	72 506	74 159	75 824	77 500	79 176	80 854
	Net D	44 669	45 754	46 839	47 923	49 008	50 093	51 178	52 263	53 348	54 434	55 518	56 603	57 687	58 772	59 858
	Net S	41 685	42 683	43 682	44 679	45 678	46 675	47 670	48 667	49 662	50 658	51 654	52 648	53 640	54 632	55 626
Associate Officer																
P-2	Gross	46 458	47 883	49 305	50 728	52 149	53 572	54 996	56 453	57 915	59 372	60 830	62 291			
	Net D	37 035	38 006	38 976	39 946	40 916	41 886	42 857	43 826	44 798	45 768	46 737	47 709			
	Net S	34 741	35 622	36 500	37 380	38 258	39 138	40 017	40 909	41 804	42 696	43 588	44 482			
Assistant Officer																
P-1	Gross	35 382	36 718	38 051	39 386	40 719	42 052	43 388	44 722	46 081	47 449					
	Net D	29 317	30 251	31 183	32 116	33 048	33 979	34 914	35 845	36 777	37 710					
	Net S	27 655	28 515	29 372	30 230	31 087	31 944	32 804	33 661	34 508	35 353					

D = Rate applicable to staff members with a dependent spouse or child.
S = Rate applicable to staff members with no dependent spouse or child.

* This scale will be implemented in conjunction with a consolidation of 3.1 per cent of post adjustment. There will be consequential adjustments in the post adjustment indices and multipliers at all duty stations, effective 1 March 1998. Thereafter, changes in post adjustment classifications will be effected on the basis of the movements of the consolidated post adjustment indices.

ANNEX II

Amendments to the Staff Regulations of the United Nations

Regulation 3.3

Replace the table in paragraph (b) (1) with the following:

Total assessable payments (United States dollars)	Staff assessment rates used in conjunction with gross base salaries (Percentage)	
	Staff member with a dependent spouse or a dependent child	Staff member with neither a dependent spouse nor a dependent child
First 15 000 per year	9.0	11.8
Next 5 000 per year	18.1	24.6
Next 5 000 per year	21.5	27.1
Next 5 000 per year	24.9	31.7
Next 5 000 per year	27.5	33.4
Next 10 000 per year	30.1	35.8
Next 10 000 per year	31.8	38.2
Next 10 000 per year	33.5	38.8
Next 10 000 per year	34.4	40.0
Next 15 000 per year	35.3	41.3
Next 20 000 per year	36.1	44.5
Remaining assessable payments	37.0	47.6

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/736
17 December 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fifty-second session
Agenda items 116 and 45

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA: PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/52/L.31

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

1. At its 43rd meeting, on 17 December 1997, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/52/31) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/52/L.31. The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman.

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/52/SR.43).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly decide to adopt draft resolution A/52/L.31, an additional appropriation of $173,800 would be required under section 3, Peacekeeping operations and special missions, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.[1] An additional appropriation of $32,300 would also be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

Notes

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/52/6/Rev.1).

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/737
17 December 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fifty-second session
Agenda items 116 and 44

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

THE SITUATION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/52/L.65

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

1. At its 43rd meeting, on 17 December 1997, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/52/30) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/52/L.65. The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman.

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/52/SR.43).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly decide to adopt the draft resolution A/52/L.65, an additional appropriation of $7,677,200 would be required under section 3, Peacekeeping operations and special missions, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. An additional appropriation of $596,100 would also be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

Notes

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/52/6/Rev.1).

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UNITED
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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/738
S/1997/988
17 December 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 37
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 16 December 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israel's attacks on southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa and the arbitrary practices against the civilian inhabitants in which it engages on a daily basis, I have the honour to notify you of the series of such incidents that took place in November 1997.

1 November 1997

At 0700 hours the abandoned Lebanese Army Barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under artillery and heavy-weapons fire from Israeli positions in the border strip.

At 0800 hours outlying areas of Dallafah, Qilya and Zillaya in Western Bekaa district came under Israeli artillery fire. Two men were wounded.

2 November 1997

At 1200 hours the security situation in the Jabal al-Rayhan area of Jazzin district grew tense and clashes took place between men of the Lebanese resistance and Israeli and Lahad militia forces in which all types of weapons were used. A number of artillery shells fell in Rayhan, causing serious damage to homes and injuring a woman.

At 1325 hours outlying areas of Luwayzah and Jarju' came under Israeli artillery fire and Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude.

At 1410 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at low altitude.

5 November 1997

At 1200 hours outlying areas of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Tibnin and Bra'shit in Bint Jubayl district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1900 hours outlying areas of Haris, Haddatha, Kafra and Yatar came under Israeli artillery fire.

6 November 1997

At 1630 hours outlying areas of Yatar, Kafra, Haris, Ayta al-Jabal and Haddatha came under Israeli artillery fire.

7 November 1997

At 1530 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Luwayzah, Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Zahrani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2035 hours Israeli helicopters overflew the Mashgharah, Ayn al-Tinah and Maydun plain, the Suhmur and Yuhmur plain and the towns of Libbaya and Qilya in Western Bekaa district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

10 November 1997

At 1830 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude.

At 1850 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Damur and Na'imah areas at low altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

11 November 1997

At 0300 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude.

At 1550 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju' and Luwayzah came under Israeli artillery fire.

12 November 1997

At 1230 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire. At the same time Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude.

At 1800 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju', Luwayzah and Ayn Bu Siwar and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire. Israeli warplanes also overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude.

13 November 1997

At 1730 hours outlying areas of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and areas along the Litani River came under Israeli artillery fire.

15 November 1997

At 0600 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Luwayzah and Arabsalim came under Israeli artillery fire. Several homes were damaged in Arabsalim.

At 1845 hours outlying areas of Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Arabsalim came under Israeli artillery fire.

16 November 1997

At 1100 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1350 hours Israeli warplanes again overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas, carrying out mock attacks.

At 2030 hours outlying areas of Haddatha, Haris and Ayta al-Jabal came under Israeli artillery fire.

17 November 1997

At 1000 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude.

At 1820 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at low altitude.

At 2130 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude.

At 2230 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at low altitude.

18 November 1997

At 1130 hours outlying areas of Haddatha in Bint Jubayl district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1810 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area carrying out mock attacks. The overflights continued until 1900 hours.

At 1830 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at medium altitude.

19 November 1997

At 0850 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitude carrying out mock attacks.

At 0855 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitude.

At 1245 hours Israeli warplanes again overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitude carrying out mock attacks.

At 1350 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at low altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1400 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Damur area and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1715 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju' and Ayn Bu Siwar and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire.

20 November 1997

At 0915 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude carrying out mock attacks.

At 0920 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at low altitude.

At 1330 hours the outskirts of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and its eastern section came under heavy bursts of fire from Israeli forces positions opposite the town. The home of Hasan Isa Ghandur was badly damaged.

At 1715 hours several shells of different calibres fell in outlying areas of Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar, Arabsalim, Jba' and Luwayzah, the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and areas along the Zahrani River in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area.

At 2210 hours outlying areas of Libbaya and Qilya came under Israeli artillery fire.

21 November 1997

At 1115 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas at low altitude.

At 2045 hours the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the Maslakh neighbourhood in Nabatiyah came under Israeli artillery fire. The bombardment extended to outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, where three shells made a direct hit on the home of Muhammad Salman Jamul.

23 November 1997

At 0630 hours outlying areas of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks came under artillery fire and bursts of sniper fire from Israeli positions in the border strip. The artillery bombardment extended to the town of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, where four artillery shells fell on the home of Hasib Musa Ghandur and a nail-filled projectile fell on the home of Nabil Ali Ulw. Serious damage was done to both houses. Israeli warplanes also overflew the Nabatiyah area at low altitude.

At 0700 hours outlying areas of Majdal Zun and Mansuri in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0800 hours Bayt Lif in Bint Jubayl district came under rocket fire. Five civilians were killed and ten others were wounded.

At 0845 hours outlying areas of Frun, Ghanduriyah, Qabrikha, Tulin, Sawwanah, Kafra and Yatar came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 0930 hours outlying areas of Jibal al-Butm and Zibqin in Tyre district came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1045 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Kafra and Yatar in two waves, firing a number of air-to-surface missiles. A number of people were killed in the bombardment.

At 1245 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju' and Jba', the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills and the Kafr Fila wadi came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1310 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Zibqin in Tyre district.

24 November 1997

At 0600 hours Israeli helicopters overflew Mansuri and Majdal Zun. At the same time outlying areas of Mansuri, Majdal Zun, Hinniyah and Qulaylah came under artillery fire.

At 0930 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Nabatiyah area at medium altitude carrying out mock attacks.

At 1215 hours Israeli warplanes attacked outlying areas of Zibqin.

At 2000 hours the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in the outskirts of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under bursts of Israeli sniper fire.

25 November 1997

At 0900 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Tyre area at low altitude.

At 0930 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitude.

At 0945 hours outlying areas of Majdal Zun, Mansuri, Buyut al-Sayyid and Hinniyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1450 hours the southern outskirts of Mashgharah and the vicinity of the vocational school came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2145 hours outlying areas of Habbush and Kafr Rumman, parts of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks came under Israeli artillery fire in which shells of various calibres were used.

At 2250 hours the Israeli artillery bombardment of Nabatiyah, the Maslakh neighbourhood and the Marj Ayun road resumed.

27 November 1997

Between 0855 and 0910 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Damur area in Shuf district and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1300 hours outlying areas of Jba', Jarju', Ayn Bu Siwar and Humin al-Fawqa and the Ayn Bu Siwar - Jarju' road came under Israeli artillery fire. The road in question was cut for one half-hour. At 1445 hours Israeli warplanes carried out two successive attacks on the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills in the Iqlim al-Tuffah district.

28 November 1997

At 1030 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at high altitude and Nabatiyah at low altitude.

At 1700 hours outlying areas of Jba', Ayn Bu Siwar, Jarju' and Luwayzah, the Jba' - Kafr Fila wadi and the Mlita and Jabal Safi hills came under Israeli artillery fire. At 0830 hours Israeli warplanes also attacked the outskirts of Luwayzah firing air-to-surface missiles.

At 1855 hours Israeli warplanes attacked the Jabal Rashid heights and the vicinity of the Jabbur pool in the outskirts of Ayn al-Tinah in Western Bekaa district.

At 2215 hours outlying areas of Arabsalim, Jarju' and Luwayzah came under Israeli artillery fire. Some 20 shells of various calibres landed in the area.

29 November 1997

At 1230 hours outlying areas of Jba', Arabsalim, Jarju' and Luwayzah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1700 hours six artillery shells fired from Lahad militia positions fell in the wadi located between Jun and Sfariyah.

At 1730 hours outlying areas of Ayn Bu Siwar and Jba' came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1835 hours Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon at low altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

At 1845 hours Israeli warplanes overflew the Jiyah, Sa'diyat, Damur and Na'imah areas in Shuf district at low altitude and were met by ground-based anti-aircraft fire from units belonging to the Lebanese Army.

30 November 1997

At 2100 hours the vicinity of the abandoned Lebanese Army barracks in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa came under artillery fire and bursts of sniper fire from Israeli positions in the border strip.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns the continued Israeli occupation and these fresh attacks and arbitrary practices inflicted on the Lebanese population, which have left a number of casualties and have caused further serious damage to property.

Like previous attacks, this new series is in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and constitutes a breach of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, of international law and of basic human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/738/Corr.1
S/1997/988/Corr.1
17 December 1997

ENGLISH ONLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda item 37
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 16 December 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Page 7, fourth paragraph, third line

For casualties read dead and wounded

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UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/739
18 December 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 153

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fiftieth session the item entitled "Human resources management" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 5th, 23rd, 27th, 30th, 38th, 40th and 43rd meetings, on 3 October, 6, 11 and 17 November and 9, 10 and 17 December 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.5, 23, 27, 30, 38, 40 and 43).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on a family leave programme (A/52/438);

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/52/7).

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on a system of performance awards or bonuses (A/52/439);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on amendments to the Staff Rules (A/52/574);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the composition of the Secretariat (A/52/580 and Corr.1 and 3);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the performance appraisal system (A/C.5/51/55 and Corr.1);

(g) Report submitted by the Secretary-General on behalf of and with the approval of the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on respect for the privileges and immunities of officials of the United Nations and the specialized agencies and related organizations (A/C.5/52/2);

(h) Note by the Secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/226 (A/C.5/52/CRP.2);

(i) Letter dated 28 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/51/955);

(j) Letter dated 8 September 1997 from the Secretary-General to the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China (A/C.5/51/58).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.14

4. At the 43rd meeting, on 17 December, the representative of Costa Rica, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Human resources management" (A/C.5/52/L.14).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.14 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Human resources management

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on a family leave programme,[2] on the implementation of the performance appraisal system,[3] on a system of performance awards or bonuses[4] and on amendments to the Staff Rules,[5]

I. FAMILY LEAVE PROGRAMME

Recalling paragraph 3 of section III.C of its resolution 51/226 of 3 April 1997, in which it requested the Secretary-General to develop a family leave programme for United Nations staff without creating supplementary leave entitlements and to report thereon to the General Assembly as soon as possible,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. Approves the recommendations of the Secretary-General in relation to the family leave programme, as contained in paragraph 12 of his report;

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SYSTEM

Having reviewed the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the performance appraisal system[3] and the relevant section of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to refine and simplify the performance appraisal system, in particular its administrative aspects;

3. Reiterates that it is important that the performance appraisal system be implemented consistently throughout the Secretariat so as to achieve an effective and fair performance management and staff development tool, and requests the Secretary-General to monitor the application of the performance appraisal system and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

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[2] A/52/438.

[3] A/C.5/51/55 and Corr.1.

[4] A/52/439.

[5] A/52/574.

[6] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/52/7), paras. 107-112.

III. SYSTEM OF PERFORMANCE AWARDS OR BONUSES

Having reviewed the report of the Secretary-General on a system of performance awards or bonuses,[4]

1. Approves, and urges the Secretary-General to adopt a step-by-step approach to, the introduction, in full consultation with the staff, of a system of performance awards or bonuses, taking into account the comments and recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission on this matter, as contained in its report;[7]

2. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the introduction of the system of performance awards or bonuses under review and to report to the General Assembly, in accordance with the step-by-step approach, at its fifty-third session;

3. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit policy proposals to deal systematically and effectively with underperformance,[8] to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, taking into account the comments and recommendations made by the International Civil Service Commission in paragraph 213 of its report,[7] for decision by the Assembly;

IV. AMENDMENTS TO STAFF RULES

Having reviewed the report of the Secretary-General on amendments to the Staff Rules,[5]

Takes note of the amendments to the 100 and 200 series of the Staff Rules contained in the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 51/226

1. Decides that the restrictions contained in paragraph 26 of section III.B of resolution 51/226, which preclude staff appointed for less than one year against regular budget posts or extrabudgetary posts of one year or longer from applying for or being appointed to their current post within six months of the end of their current service, shall apply to staff appointed after 3 April 1997 only;

2. Decides also that persons eligible to be considered for internal vacancies within the Secretariat after twelve months of service, as provided for in paragraph 27 of section III.B of resolution 51/226, shall be staff appointed in the Professional category or above under the 100 or 300 series of the Staff Rules to serve against peacekeeping support account posts at Headquarters or in

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[7] Ibid., Supplement No. 30 (A/52/30), chap. VI, sect. B.

[8] See A/52/439, para. 17.

peacekeeping or other field missions, and decides further that such eligibility shall be limited to vacant posts at the P-4 level and above;

3. Decides to continue consideration of the note by the Secretariat on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 51/226,[9] as well as the application of the provisions of the preceding paragraphs, at the first part of its resumed fifty-second session.

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[9] A/C.5/52/CRP.2.

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/740
18 December 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fifty-second session
Agenda items 116 and 43

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/52/L.68 B

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

1. At its 44th meeting, on 18 December 1997, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/52/33 and Corr.1) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/52/L.68 B. The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman.

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/52/SR.44).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/52/L.68 B, an additional appropriation of $4,007,700 would be required under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. An additional appropriation of $327,300 would also be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment. These requirements will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

97-37391 (E) 181297

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/741
19 December 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fifty-second session
Agenda items 116 and 157

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

UNITED NATIONS REFORM: MEASURES AND PROPOSALS

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/52/L.72/Rev.1

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

1. At its 44th and 45th meetings, on 18 and 19 December 1997, respectively, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/52/36) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/52/L.72/Rev.1. The related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions was presented orally by its Chairman (see A/C.5/52/SR.44).

2. Statements and comments made in the course of the Committee's consideration of this item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.44 and 45).

DECISION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

3. The Fifth Committee decided to inform the General Assembly that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/52/L.72/Rev.1, the programme budget implications arising out of the draft resolution would be considered in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/52/303 and Add.1).

97-37563 (E) 191297

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/742
21 December 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 115

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Second performance report

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the second report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/C.5/52/32 and Corr.1). The Advisory Committee notes that, as in the past, the scope of the report is financial only and will be supplemented by a report on programme implementation, which will be submitted later for consideration by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee points out that the goal of performance reporting should be to relate financial data to programme performance and it is the view of the Advisory Committee that additional efforts should be made by the Secretariat to consider, in the long term, combining the two sides of budget performance into a single performance report.

2. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 3 of the Secretary-General's report that the anticipated final level of expenditure and of income for the biennium represents a net decrease of $25.1 million compared with the revised appropriations and estimates of income approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/222 of 18 December 1996. The projected expenditure for the biennium 1996-1997 is estimated at $2,549.4 million gross, which reflects a decrease of $53.8 million. The projected income is estimated at $419.0 million, which also reflects a decrease of $28.7 million compared with the revised income estimates of $447.7 million for the biennium 1996-1997.

3. As can be seen from paragraph 4 of the report, the net reduced requirement of $25.1 million reflects a combined effect of: (a) projected additional requirements in the amount of $31.6 million owing to changes in inflation assumptions ($1.6 million), commitments entered into under the provision of resolution 50/217 of 23 December 1995 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses

($4.3 million) and commitments authorized by the General Assembly ($25.7 million); and (b) a decrease in income ($28.7 million), offset by an anticipated reduction of $85.4 million owing to: changes in exchange-rate assumptions ($49.3 million); variations in post and common staff costs ($30.6 million); and adjustments to objects of expenditures other than posts ($5.5 million).

4. The performance estimates include, as indicated in paragraph 5 of the report, additional requirements of $10.4 million for the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) detailed in the ninth progress report of the Secretary-General on IMIS (A/52/711). These requirements are reflected under the column "Other changes", schedule 3, section 30, "Technological innovations", of the performance report. The Advisory Committee intends to examine during its session in February and March 1998 the requirements for the project outlined in the ninth report of the Secretary-General on IMIS. In the meantime, however, the Advisory Committee recommends that the additional provision of $10.4 million for IMIS be deleted from the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

5. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 8 of the Secretary-General's report that "greater implementation flexibility was provided to offices in the early part of 1997 through the allotment process to facilitate the role of programme managers in optimizing the utilization of resources". The Advisory Committee was informed, upon inquiry, that programme managers had been given more possibilities of redeploying resources allotted to their programmes, with the exception of staff costs, honoraria and hospitality. The Advisory Committee welcomes this development.

6. The Secretary-General points out in paragraph 7 of his report that budget implementation during the current biennium was notably more challenging than in previous bienniums "owing to the dynamic efforts required to manage the sharply reduced level of resources within a short budget cycle and within a budgetary structure with limited flexibility or requiring longer lead times to address the necessary savings other than through significant reductions in staff costs". In this regard, the Advisory Committee recalls that target vacancy rates for Professional and General Service and related categories of staff were 10.4 and 7.5 per cent respectively.

7. However, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26 of the report that, based on 22 months' data, the average actual vacancy rate for these categories of staff are estimated at 12.8 and 7.6 per cent, respectively. Moreover, as can be seen from schedule 9 of the performance report, vacancy rates in some budget sections have been developing in the course of the biennium to a dramatically high level, for example, under budget section 21, "Human rights", from 4.0 and 8.5 per cent in the Professional and General Service categories, respectively, at 31 January 1996 to 49.0 and 18.6 per cent, respectively, at 31 October 1997; under budget section 11, "United Nations Environment Programme", from 17.4 per cent in the Professional category and no vacancies in the General Service category at 31 January 1996 to 39.1 and 5 per cent, respectively, at 31 October 1997. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon inquiry, that no deliberate attempt had been made by the Secretariat to increase the vacancy level over and above the target rates of 10.4 and 7.5 per cent for Professional and General Service staff, respectively.

8. The additional requirements of $1.6 million relating to changes in inflation assumptions and a decrease of $49.3 million resulting from exchange-rate fluctuations are explained in paragraphs 12 to 17 and the details regarding the assumed and actual rates of exchange are contained in schedules 4 and 5 of the report of the Secretary-General; the Advisory Committee notes from table 1 of the report that the main factors that contributed to the decrease for exchange rates are primarily the depreciation of the Swiss franc ($32.2 million) and the Austrian schilling ($6.0 million) against the United States dollar.

9. The total additional requirements of $30.0 million relating to commitments entered into by the Secretary-General under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/217 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses ($4.3 million), commitments authorized by the General Assembly for the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala ($21.0 million) and the United Nations International Civilian Mission in Haiti ($2.6 million) and to staff assessment ($2.1 million) are discussed in paragraphs 18 to 23 of the report. These additional requirements, as indicated in paragraph 23, have been met within the current level of appropriations, in view of the continuing favourable exchange rate performance of the United States dollar against other currencies. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls its observation in paragraph 36 of its report (A/51/7/Add.1) that "even though it may be possible to absorb at least part of the cost of these new mandates because of movements in exchange rates and inflation, the Advisory Committee believes that it is important to remember that General Assembly resolution 41/213 has been reaffirmed (see, for example, General Assembly resolutions 50/230, 50/231 and 50/232) and continues to apply until the Assembly specifically changes it".

10. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the report of the Secretary-General, the anticipated final level of expenditure and of income for the biennium is based on actual expenditures for the first 18 months, projected requirements for the last 6 months and changes in inflation and exchange rates and cost-of-living adjustments as compared with the assumptions made in the first performance report. It is the view of the Advisory Committee that, considering the Organization's investments in technology, the Secretariat should attempt to base performance reporting on actual expenditures for the first 21 months, rather than 18 months of the biennium, as is currently the case.

11. The Advisory Committee points out that the estimated expenditures for the biennium 1996-1997 include unliquidated obligations. The Advisory Committee requests that future performance reports indicate the amount of unliquidated obligations included in estimated expenditures for the biennium.

12. The decrease of $28.7 million projected under the income sections is discussed in paragraphs 32 to 35 of the Secretary-General's report. In connection with the information reflected in paragraph 34 of the report, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon inquiry, that the decrease in rental of premises under income section 2 had resulted in part from the move by the United Nations Children's Fund at the end of 1995 to properties owned by the Geneva authorities and that the relocation of the United Nations Volunteers to Bonn in 1995 was due to the fact that those relocations could not have been foreseen at the time of the budget preparation for the biennium 1996-1997.

13. In the light of its observations and recommendations, the Advisory Committee recommends a reduction of $10.4 million in respect of IMIS under the expenditure sections of the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.